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NEW SNAKES FROM COSTA RICA AND PANAMA.

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WHILE on Barro Colorado Island in July, 1930, Mr. James Zetek showed me some snakes which he had taken on the Island and in the neighborhood of Ancon. Among the latter was a species of *Sibynophis* which seems new and remarkable. It may be called

Sibynophis zeteki, sp. nov.

Type.—Museum of Comparative Zoology no. 29060.

Type locality.—Ancon, Canal Zone, Panama.

Diagnosis.—Close to *S. venustissimus* of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, but with light instead of black snout, and with black rings in contact with the red bands instead of light.

Description.—Female: scales 17; ventrals 142; anal divided; caudals 65 +; oculars 1-2; temporals 2-2; supralabials 8, infralabials 10; third, fourth, and fifth supralabials in contact with eye; four infralabials in contact with anterior chin shields which are much longer than those posteriorly; snout white; black dots on the labials under the eye; parietals and nape black; black dots on postoculars, temporals, and last labial; a light ring two scales long followed by a black ring $1\frac{1}{2}$ scales long back of nape; this followed by a red band 9 scales long, the scales tipped with black; then black, yellow, black, each ring two scales long; then red again, etc.; 12 red bands on body, varying in length from 9 to 3 scales; tail with three broad red bands separated by three black rings which in turn are separated by light rings; the combination about equal to one red band, and being made up in about the proportion of 1 black, 1 yellow, 6 black, 1 yellow, 1 black; throat and belly light; a black dot on each subcaudal; length 531 mm., tail 166 mm., imperfect.

Remarks.—The arrangement of color bands in this species is that of *Lampropeltis*, while the arrangement in *S. venustissimus* is that of *Micrurus*. The scalation is scarcely different from that of *S. venustissimus*. The type locality of *S. venustissimus* is Matagalpa, Nicaragua. I have also seen specimens from

¹ Contribution from the Department of Biology, Haverford College, No. 3.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, and from Rio Banana, Bonilla, Colombaria, and Zent, Costa Rica.

The genus *Sibynophis* is interesting in its distribution. *S. collaris* of southern Asia has been compared with *S. annulatus* of Mexico and Guatemala and found generically identical. The genus is not found in either the United States or South America. Thus it is not, strictly speaking, Neotropical. There are a number of similar cases which I hope to treat later in a distributional paper.

Sibynophis seems to have four American species which may be distinguished as follows:

A. Not ringed; striped anteriorly, uniform posteriorly; 181 ventrals.

Sibynophis sumichrasti (Bocourt).
Henicognathus sumichrasti Bocourt,
1886, Miss. Sci. Mex., p. 628, pl. 41,
fig. 5; Tehuantepec, Mexico.

AA. Ringed; 135-157 ventrals.

B. Ringed with black, yellow, black, and red anteriorly; uniform or striped posteriorly. . . . *Sibynophis annulatus* (Duméril and Bibron).

Henicognathus annulatus Duméril
and Bibron 1854, Erp. Gen. vol. 7,
p. 335, pl. 80, fig. 1; Mexico. (I have
seen it from Tabasco and Guatemala.) The British Museum has it
from Vera Paz.

BB. Ringed throughout.

C. Ringed with red, yellow, black, yellow, red; snout black.

Sibynophis venustissimus (Günther).
Henicognathus venustissimus Günther
1894, Biol. Centr. Amer., p. 144,
pl. 51, fig. C; Matagalpa, Nicaragua,
(Also Bluefields, Nicaragua, and
Rio Banana, Bonilla, Colombaria,
and Zent, Costa Rica.)

CC. Ringed with red, black, yellow, black, red; snout white.

Sibynophis zeteki Dunn. Ancon,
Canal Zone, Panama.

In addition to the original localities for specimens of the genus *Trimetopon* (Cartago and San Jose, Costa Rica), specimens have been seen from La Palma, Turrialba and Reventazon (= La Junta), Costa Rica, and from Ancon and Pedro Miguel in the Canal Zone. These are easily divisible into three species, two of which need naming.

- A. Prefrontals fused; ventrals 141-154; scales 15-17; a white dot on each scale. *Trimetopon gracile* (Günther).

This is *Ablabes gracilis* Günther 1872, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4), 9, p. 18, pl. 3, fig. D; Cartago, Costa Rica; type, Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. no. 71-11-22-19, 20. It includes *Trimetopon phiolepis* Cope 1885, Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. 22, p. 177; San Jose, Costa Rica. The British Museum has it from Turrialba and from La Palma. I have taken it from the latter locality.

- AA. Prefrontals fused; ventrals 122; scales 15; uniform, back of head white.

Trimetopon simile, sp. nov.

- AAA. Two prefrontals; ventrals 141-153; scales 15; a lateral white stripe.

Trimetopon barbouri, sp. nov.

Trimetopon simile, sp. nov.

Type.—Museum of Comparative Zoology no. 15263, received from the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica.

Type locality.—Reventazon, Costa Rica (= La Junta).

Description.—Scales 15; ventrals 122; anal divided; caudals 69; prefrontals fused; oculars 1-2; temporal 1-1; supralabials 7, infralabials 7; third and fourth supralabials are below the eye; four infralabials are in contact with the anterior chin shields which are longer than those posteriorly; black, white below; head white as far forward as middle of frontal, and including third labial; a black spot on seventh labial; length 155 mm., tail 50 mm.

Trimetopon barbouri, sp. nov.

Type.—Museum of Comparative Zoology no. 23877.

Type locality.—Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone, Panama.

Description.—Male: scales 15; ventrals 153; anal divided; caudals 58; oculars 1-2; temporals 1-1; two prefrontals; two nasals; supralabials 7, infralabials 8; third and fourth supralabials in contact with eye; four infralabials in contact with anterior chin shields; darkish, light below; no light collar; a stripe from eye to fifth and sixth labials; a stripe from parietal on second temporal and seventh labial; a light stripe on fifth scale row and upper half of fourth; first, second, and one-half of third rows lighter; length 260 mm., tail 65 mm.

Variation.—Of four from Ancon (Mus. Comp. Zool. no. 23873-23876) two have ventrals 141 and 149.

Remarks.—The genus is composed of these three obviously related forms, but *barbouri*, with its normal prefrontals, is not very remote from some of the Central American forms of *Liophis* (*Rhadinea*), approaching such forms as *calligaster* and *seperaster*.

In another direction I believe it has affinities with *Leptocalamus* (the coloration of *simile* is like that of *Leptocalamus torquatus*) and with *Arrhyton*. The hemipenis of the three is quite similar and peculiar.